

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-05 /010 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB:PWLANDE:DE

APPROVED BY: NEA/PAB:PWLANDE

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R 251839Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092591

FOR THE ATTENTION OF JOSEPH S. NYE

FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 4046 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KARACHI
LAHORE NEW DELHI PARIS TEHRAN CINCPAC DACCA CAIRO KABUL
APR 25, 1977

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJECT: LAMP DOWN CONTINUES

1. OVER THE WEEKEND, BHUTTO EMPLOYED THE IRON FIST,
WITHOUT THE VELVET GLOVE, TO TIGHTEN HIS CONTROL OVER
THE COUNTRY AND TO PUT THE OPPOSITION ON THE DEFENSIVE.
THE ARMY IS DAILY BECOMING MORE IDENTIFIED WITH BHUTTO
(TO THEIR OWN DISCOMFORT WE BELIEVE) AS HE TURNS TO THE
MILITARY TO KEEP HIM IN POWER. WE WILL BE DOING SEPARATE
CABLE ON THE ROLE OF THE ARMY AS WE NOW SEE IT. CONGENS
KARACHI AND LAHORE WILL BE REPORTING SECURITY SITUATION IN
THEIR AREAS SEPARATELY.

2. CONGEN LAHORE HAS REPORTED ARRESTS OF OPPOSITION LEADERS
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DURING THE WEKEND. WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT AS MANY AS
65 PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE LEADERS WERE PICKED UP SATURDAY
AND SUNDAY AND ARE STILL BEING HELD. IN ADDITION TO THE
ONES REPORTED FROM LAHORE (LAHORE 419), BEGUM HANIF RAMAY
- WIFE OF JAILED FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB - AND
AKBAR BUGTI - FORMER GOVERNOR OF BALUCHISTAN - HAVE ALSO BEEN
ARRESTED. ARMY CONTINUES TO ENFORCE MARTIAL LAW AND CURFEWS

IN KARACHI, LAHORE AND NYDERABAD AND HAVE ISSUED SERIES OF STRINGENT REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SECURITY SITUATION IN ALL THREE CITIES.

3. RESIGNATIONS FROM THE PPPFCONTINUE AT A SLOW PACE. MOST NOTABLE TO LEAVE SO FAR AND FIRST MINISTER TO DO SO WAS NOOR HAYAT KAHN NOON, FEDERAL MINISTER OF TOURISM, WHO, ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN NAWA-I-WAQT, RESIGNED FROM THE ASSEMBLY AND THE PARTY ON APRIL 24. NOON CALLED FOR THE PM TO FORM AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WITH THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE AS A PRELUDE TO NEW ELECTIONS. BHUTTO REFUSED AND NOON RESIGNED. PROMINENT PUNJABI POLITICIAN, FORMER MUSLIM LEAGUER AND PP MNA MIAN SALAHUDDIN ALSO RESIGNED FROM THE PAR TY AND HIS ASSEMBLY SEAT DURING THE WEEKEND.

4. APRIL 24 PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT AHMED SAEED KIRMANI HAS BEEN FIRED. THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT KIRMANI HAS BEEN GUILTY OF PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN "SERIOUS FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES" IN THE EMBASSY, AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS. WE KNOW KIRMANI WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM HIS SUPPORTERS IN LAHORE TO RESIGN (CAIRO 6393 CONFIRMED REPORTS CIRCULATING IN PAKISTAN) AND THE GOVERNMENT OBVIOUSLY DECIDED TO PREEMPT THIS POSSIBILITY AND ITS ATTENDANT PUBLICITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MARTIAL LAW, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE092591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/PAB:PWLANDE:DE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770144-0940
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770422/aaaaasmn.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0f2a969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2703058
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAMP DOWN CONTINUES
TAGS: PINT, PK, (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f2a969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009